GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2408
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
USE OF BIO DIVERSITY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme for better use of biodiversity available in the country to improve farm production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of incentives provided to State Governments for procurement of crops from farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology has established a National Bio-resource Development Board (NBDB) to decide the broad policy framework for effective application of biotechnological and related scientific approaches for research and development,sustainable utilization of bio-resources and promotion of other bioresources related developmental activities.

(c): On the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP),Government of India announces minimum support price (MSP) for mandated agricultural commodities and resorts to procurement as and when prices of that particular commodity falls below the MSP.

Besides, Government of India also implements a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for horticultural commodities and other agricultural commodities, which are perishable in nature and which are not covered under the minimum price support scheme. In order to protect the growers of these horticultural/agricultural commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival period when prices fall to very low level, Government implements MIS for a particular commodity on the request of the State Government concerned.Losses suffered are shared on 50:50 basis between Central Government and the State.